CLAIMS

1. A coating for use in lubricating an electro-cautery probe of a cauterization device to resist sticking of tissue on the electro-cautery probe, the coating comprising an amphiphilic lipid.

2. The coating of claim 1, wherein the coating comprises an amphiphilic phospholipid.

3. The coating of claim 1, wherein the coating comprises a glycerol-based lipid.

4. The coating of claim 1, wherein the coating comprises a glycerol-based phospholipid.

5. The coating of claim 1, wherein the coating comprises a lecithin.

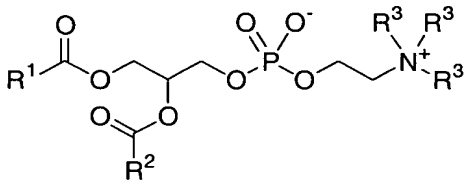
6. The coating of claim 5, wherein the lecithin is a non-allergenic lecithin.

7. The coating of claim 5, wherein the lecithin is of 8090 viscosity.

8. The coating of claim 5, wherein the lecithin is of 12000 viscosity.

9. The coating of claim 5, wherein the lecithin is a lecithin from which a soy protein component is removed to make the coating non-allergenic.

10. The release coating of claim 1, wherein the release coating comprises a compound having the formula:



wherein R^1 and R^2 are each independently selected from alkyl and alkenyl, each of which may be optionally substituted; and R^3 is in each instance independently selected from C_1-C_4 alkyl.

11. A kit for lubricating an electro-cautery probe of a cauterization device comprising

the coating of claim 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10,

a container containing the coating of claim 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10, and

a pad having a top surface formed to receive a portion of the coating of claim 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10.

12. The kit of claim 11, wherein the pad includes a foam portion, an adhesive provided on at least one surface of the foam portion, and a removable backing coupled to the adhesive.

13. The kit of claim 12, wherein the pad has a surface area of approximately two inches by two inches.

14. The kit of claim 11, wherein the pad is a first pad and wherein the kit further includes a second pad.

15. The kit of claim 11, wherein the coating, container, and pad are sterile.

16. An electro-cautery probe for attachment to and use with a cauterization device to cut and/or cauterize tissue of a patient in surgery, the electro-cautery probe having at least a surface of the electro-cautery probe which contacts a

patient's tissue to be cut and/or cauterized coated with a coating comprising lecithin.

17. The electro-cautery probe of claim 16, wherein the coating is the coating of claim 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10.

18. A cauterization device comprising

a main body having a gripping handle and an insulator coupled to the gripping handle,

an electro-cautery probe provided within the insulator and having a tip distal the gripping handle and protruding out from the insulator, and

a dispensing mechanism configured to lubricate the tip of the electro-cautery probe with a coating, the dispensing mechanism being coupled to the main body and including a channel positioned along the insulator of the main body and an actuator coupled to a proximal end of the channel to be positioned near the gripping handle of the main body.

19. The cauterization device of claim 18, wherein the actuator includes a receptacle coupled to the insulator of the main body and wherein the receptacle defines a cavity configured to receive the coating therein.

20. The cauterization device of claim 19, wherein the actuator includes a plunger having a sealed stopper end positioned within the cavity of the receptacle and a handle coupled to the plunger for a user to grip, and further wherein the plunger is movable back and forth within the cavity relative to the receptacle in order to move the coating within the receptacle into the insulator and onto the tip of the electro-cautery probe.

21. The cauterization device of claim 18, wherein the actuator includes a compressible bulb.

22. A method for coating electro-cautery probes in a surgery procedure in an operating room comprising:

a. providing a cauterization device having at least one electro-cautery probe to cut and/or cauterize tissue,

b. providing a container of liquid coating for lubricating the at least one electro-cautery probe, and

c. applying the liquid coating in the container to a tip of the electro-cautery probe.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the liquid coating is the coating of claim 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10.

24. The method of claim 22, wherein the cauterization device is a bi-polar cauterization device.

25. The method of claim 22, wherein the cauterization device is a mono-polar cauterization device.

26. The method of claim 22, wherein the container is a spray bottle and applying the liquid coating includes spraying the coating onto the at least one electro-cautery probe.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein the spray bottle is a pump-driven spray bottle.

28. The method of claim 26, wherein the spray bottle is a gas-driven spray bottle.

29. A method of lubricating an electro-cautery probe of a cauterization device with a coating comprising

a. attaching a pad having a top surface to receive a portion of the coating to an area adjacent a cauterization site prior to the cauterization procedure,

b. placing a portion of the coating onto the top surface of the pad, and

c. dipping a tip of the electro-cautery probe into the coating provided on the top surface of the pad prior to cauterizing a patient's tissue.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein the dipping step is repeated during the cauterization procedure as often as necessary.

31. The method of claim 29, wherein attaching the pad includes removing a backing of the pad to expose an adhesive of the pad coupled to a bottom surface of the pad and attaching the adhesive-coated bottom surface of the pad to the area adjacent the cauterization site.

32. The method of claim 29, wherein the coating is the coating of claim 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10.

33. A method of lubricating an electro-cautery probe of a cauterization device with a coating comprising

a. providing the coating within a lubricating mechanism coupled to an insulator of the cauterization device, and

b. dispensing the coating onto a tip of the electro-cautery probe.

34. The method of claim 33, wherein dispensing the coating onto the tip of the electro-cautery probe comprises placing the coating into a syringe portion of the lubricating mechanism and depressing a plunger of the syringe portion to advance the coating through the lubricating mechanism.

35. The method of claim 33, wherein the coating is the coating of claim 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10.

36. A coating for use in lubricating a medical instrument, the coating comprising an amphiphilic lipid.

37. The coating of claim 36, wherein the coating comprises an

amphiphilic phospholipid.

38. The coating of claim 36, wherein the coating comprises a glycerol-based lipid.

39. The coating of claim 36, wherein the coating comprises a glycerol-based phospholipid.

40. The coating of claim 36, wherein the coating comprises a lecithin.